

Town of Scituate
Video Update Narrative
July 13, 2020

COVID19 Update:

Six (6) new cases since last week.

One case is someone who had travelled to Florida, tested positive, and infected partner.

Two other cases were partners of previously positive residents.

Three are brand new cases in town.

This is a jump in cases here and was anticipated because of the gatherings over the 4th of July holiday. Is it likely there will be a number of other new cases in the coming days for the same reason. Please remember: MASKS ARE THE BEST WAY TO PREVENT SPREAD! Stay socially distant and wash your hands frequently.

Statewide average is at 1.5% positive today.

Phase 2 Water Ban is in affect. That means hand-held watering only before 9am and after 5pm. No irrigation system use allowed, no car washing, and no pool filling. Warnings have been issued and fines are beginning. Violations are \$100/day. During the last week of June, the town average use of water was 2.21 million gallons per day. Since putting the ban in place, the town is averaging now averaging 1.82 million gallons per day. That is a reduction of about 400,000 gallons per day. These measures protect our water resources during our peak summer season. Thank you for complying.

Town Hall is open with regular hours, except Tuesdays will close early at 6pm. You must wear masks and follow social distancing guidelines posted. Offices will also take your contact information. Over 150 people came the first day, but numbers are declining as pent-up business is attended to. If you can use online services, please continue to do so. We want to do all we can to ensure the health of our staff and residents.

Starting today the Library will be doing curbside pick-up six days a week. Please check the library website for details. Library of things and passes can also be borrowed. Library opening will be dependent on preparing the facility to adhere to the state guidelines. When it does open, residents will be able to browse the stacks and reserve computers on a limited basis. Conference and study rooms will not be available in the first phase of library openings and gathering/hanging out will not be permitted.

Brown water complaints on FaceBook do not translate into water department data. Please contact 781-545-8735 or email brownwater@scituatema.gov if you experience discolored water of any intensity. This information allows the water team to identify and address any problem areas. There will be limited flushing conducted today and tomorrow near Wheeler Park to address recent concerns. This will likely stir up the system and may result in some discoloration. This will also help determine if Wheeler

Park issues are system originated or within the building itself. If the latter, we will work with the Housing Authority to address.

DPW Updates: Cedar Point Sewer Replacement contract has been awarded. Work is scheduled to begin in late August. Replacement of 2" water mains (a source of brown water and reduced pressure) has begun as well as addition of dead-end fire hydrants to improve flushing and cleaning of system. This work has been significantly delayed because of COVID19, but will be another important step in reducing brown water. The Masquashcuit Pond berm improvement work is scheduled to begin in late July. These work is essential for repairing storm damage to the berm and protecting town resources and private homes. It will necessitate bring 16 truckloads of stone through town and down Surfside Road every day throughout the project. Bailey's Causeway and Gilson Road culvert replacements are ready to get begin. Scheduling and logistics are being ironed out now. The Dolan Field Well Testing will begin in the next week or so along Hatherly Road, so you'll likely see equipment while we explore additional water sources. The Tack Factory Pond green sand filter construction has begun to provide treatment of the well located there. This facility will eliminate manganese (a contributor to brown water) and increase water capacity.

This week the Neo-wise comet will be visible to the naked eye. Check it out!

Board of Selectmen will meet Tuesday, July 14th at 6:30pm at the Maritime Center to discuss FY21 priorities. This is a special meeting to strategize coming year plans. It will not be broadcast live. Next regular meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 21 at 6:30pm at Town Hall.

Board of Selectmen and School Committee representatives have begun joint conversations to ensure that the schools have the resources and support they need to safely begin educating our students in the fall. Both boards have also agreed to work collaboratively on forming a town-wide committee to address racial equity and inclusion justice.

Scituate Loves Local bag sales are going well and will continue. These bags are filled with merchandise and gift cards purchased from local businesses. They are sponsored by a different group each week and highlight that group's contribution to our community. Pick-ups in front of local stores is also driving much needed foot traffic to our businesses. Each is for sale for \$50. This week's sponsor is Sister City Sucy-en-Brie Committee. Details available at Scituate Loves Local FaceBook and Instagram or by emailing scituateloveslocal@gmail.com. There are a couple of Beach Commission bags available from last week as well!

Next update will be Monday, July 20th at 9:30 am.

***** The Board of Selectmen is looking for a volunteer who can quickly summarize the videos into narrative form on Monday mornings. Please contact Lorraine Devin at 781-545-8740 if you have an interest in helping with these important communications.

